



Welcome to another year of soccer. Lots of big news so we'll get straight to it.

Website – this is the font of our club knowledge. Make sure you hit the refresh button every time you visit the site. Many browsers store files on your computer, so you may not be looking at the latest edition of the website.

Registrations open – Fill in the back of this form or see the website for details and more forms. Registrations close on the 20th and late registrations will be accepted at the discretion of the committee.

Registration night. As per tradition our registration evening will be at the Ohope School gala on the 13th. If you have old boots or shorts that you would like to donate to the club for resale please contact Helen as soon as possible.

Fees. As was ratified at the AGM in November, there is a modest increase in fees up to \$35/45. The family discount introduced last year stays in place. If fees are an issue please discuss it with the treasurer, Helen Dudley. The club needs to spend money on bigger ticket items such as nets, goalpost replacement, corner flags and the like. While we will be dipping into club savings we need

to ensure that the club's cashflow is in control. As a comparison of fees, the Blue Rovers club in Tauranga charges \$80 for a single player.

Diary this. The league starts on the 9th May, one week after Bay Day.

President steps down.

The club president, Barry Hollowood, resigned from the committee at a meeting held on the 19th Feb. As many will appreciate, Barry's current commitments means that he will be unable to take on the role. This is a huge loss to the club. Barry's time leading the club has been hallmarked by significant and very positive changes including incorporating the club, setting up the club website, bedding the McMecking tournament in as part of the Eastern Bay soccer calendar, getting sponsorship, establishing the "Budding Beckhams", and numerous other initiatives. For those who have worked alongside Barry on the committee what stands out is his unswerving commitment to the wellbeing of the club and the players and his experience, expertise, and passion will be sorely missedhopefully not for too long.

Special General Meeting. Barry's departure means that a **Special General Meeting will be held on 5th March at 7:15pm in the staffroom of Ohope Beach School** with the sole business of electing a new president. If you would like to stand or nominate someone please



contact the club secretary, Penny Doorman, as soon as possible so club members can be informed. If you can make it along to the SGM, your support will be appreciated. We will endeavour to set up an on-line proxy voting system. Currently Kathy Hamilton has put her name forward. Keep an eye on the website for more details.

Help! - Barry's departure is one of many and we need new coaches, managers. Coaches are the heart of the club...we can't function without them so give it some thought – it's very rewarding.

Trials. All players, G8 and above, will be expected to attend trials this year, currently planned for Wednesday 1st April, after school. The purpose of the trials is to place players in the most appropriate team for their skills and aptitude. Keep an eye on the website for more details.

Budding Beckhams. With Sheryl's move into the 6th Grade we need a coach for the Budding Beckhams, our "intro to soccer" program for age 4 & 5 year olds. Great fun and a great asset to the future of the club. The BB squad is limited to 12 "players" so anyone who wants to coach is top of the list.

www.ohopesoccer.org.nz